

NEW NEWS OF YESTERDAY

By E. J. Edwards

Problem Was Easy for Edison

Nizard Quickly Told New York Commission Just How Electric Current Wires Could Be Placed Underground.

When New York city, back in the late eighties, passed an ordinance forbidding the stringing of telegraph and telephone wires overhead and ordering the miles of wires already overhead to be placed underground a commission was appointed to take charge of the work of burying them. A member of this commission was the late Jacob Hess, at one time very prominent as a Republican organization leader in New York, and one of the group of very energetic young men who were trained in politics by Chester A. Arthur when he was a power in New York city politics.

"The most impressive evidence I ever had of Edison's genius I received when I was a member of what I believe was the first authoritative body to deal with the problem of laying a city's wires underground," said Mr. Hess to me a few years before his death. "And, by the way, our work as a commission was closely followed by municipal authorities throughout the United States and also by some of the leading municipal experts of Europe.

"Well, when we started out we knew that it wouldn't do just to place the wires in trenches and let it go at that; anybody knows that wires so placed would not work and would soon be destroyed. So we had authority to spend money to make experiments in order to get at least one satisfactory system of burying the wires, and to enter into contracts with inventors of satisfactory systems. One of our first moves, therefore, was to advertise our needs.

"You can't imagine the number of inventions that were brought to our attention—they simply were legion, as the saying is. Most of them were worthless on their face, and we were asked by their inventors all sorts of prices, ranging from a few dollars up into the thousands. One of the best of the inventions, as we thought, was so expensive that its cost alone made its use prohibitive.

"One day, after we had been struggling with the problem for weeks, and were as far away from solving it apparently as when we first tackled it, it was suggested that we call on Thomas A. Edison and ask him to invent something that we could use, or, at least, give us a suggestion that we could have worked out. We wrote him, and he invited us to visit him at his laboratory in New Jersey.

Weed and the Two McCarthys

One in Dublin Did Him a Favor Because the Other Was His Favorite Walter in New York.

In one of the chests I had with Thurlow Weed when that great political figure of ante-bellum and wartime was living in the peaceful retirement of old age, he told me the story of the brothers McCarthy.

"On the first excursion that I made to Europe," said Mr. Weed, "I went with my daughter Harriet, and in our party were Archbishop Hughes of New York, a warm personal friend of mine, and Archbishop John Baptist Purcell of Cincinnati, both, at that time, being bishops only. The captain of the steamship on which we crossed learned that we were going to Ireland as soon as we had landed, so, doubtless out of respect for the two dignitaries of the Catholic church, he volunteered to save us the trip to Liverpool by putting us ashore in Ireland in one of the ship's boats. We gladly accepted the invitation, were rowed ashore off Queenstown and so reached

Why Blaine Left Journalism

Proprietor of Portland Advertiser Would Not Raise His Salary, So He Quit and Turned to Politics.

This story of how a refusal to raise James G. Blaine's salary practically opened up a political career before him was told me by two competent authorities: an editor of Blaine's old paper, the Portland (Me.) Advertiser, during the Maine state campaign of 1878, and, some years later, by Hannibal Hamblin, Lincoln's second vice-president and later senator from the state of Maine.

"Senator Hamblin," I asked one day, having recalled the story told me by the Portland editor, "did you ever hear that Blaine's career might have been entirely different had he been granted the raise in salary that he desired when he was editor of the Portland Advertiser in 1867?"

"Oh, yes, I know about that story, and I know it to be true," responded the senator, "and I am certain that Blaine's career would at least have been greatly delayed—say nothing of being different—had he remained as editor of that paper.

"Mr. Blaine," continued his senatorial colleague—both were in that august body at the time—"was one of the associate editors of the Kennebec Journal for two or three years after he first went to Maine to live. His work in that position was so noticeable that the owner of the Portland Advertiser secured him as that paper's editor. The salary was twelve hundred dollars a year.

"As the end of the first year of Mr. Blaine's service with the Advertiser approached, he and its proprietor had several conferences about re-engagement. Mr. Blaine thought that he ought to receive fifteen hundred dol-

What Stood in the Way.

In a police court the other day, a case was being tried, where the charge was for a technical assault, and it came out in the course of the evidence that the parties were neighbors, and had been on the best of terms for many years.

"It's a great pity," said the magistrate, "that such old friends and neighbors as you seem to have been should appear here in such a way. Surely this is a case which might be settled out of court."

"It can't be done!" said the plaintiff moodily. "I thought of that myself; but the beggar won't fight."

Judged by His Company.

Yes, sir," said old DeScaddis, "I judge a man by the company he keeps."

"Thank you," rejoined young Wood-bus.

"Thank me!" exclaimed the old man. "Why should you thank me?"

"Excuse me," said the young man, "but I thought you had in mind the fact that I have been keeping company with your daughter for nearly a year."

Wanted Information

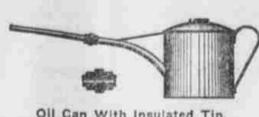
The enthusiastic literary gentleman at Allways-on-the-Go, said London Answers, had consented to deliver a lecture in the village club on Burns. For weeks beforehand the boardings and the boardings shouted announcements, and when the appointed night arrived the hall was full to overflowing. He began with "The Cotter's Saturday Night," "Tam o' Shanter," and "The Jolly Beggar," and was proceeding with "John Anderson," when there came an interruption from the back of the hall. "What is it, my man?" inquired the lecturer. "Hi, when are you going to give us a few 'ints'?" came the reply. "Hints?" repeated the puzzled gentleman. "Yes, 'ints!' growled out the man. 'I paid threepence for some 'in, 'cos you was supposed to know all about Burns, an' there yer stands, spoutin' poetry like a parrot, while my missus, who's upset a saucepan of bollin' water on 'er foot, is

THE ELECTRICAL WORLD

INSULATED TIP ON OIL CAN

Safeguard Against Sudden and Sometimes Fatal Shock When Oiling Electrical Machinery.

When oiling electrical machinery it is always advisable to safeguard yourself against accidental shock, especially when currents of high tension are being generated, writes A. J. J. Arman in Scientific American. It frequently happens when an ordinary long-spout can is employed for oiling dynamos that a severe shock is received by the oiler, resulting sometimes in death. Several years ago the writer invented an oil can that was perfectly safe under all ordinary conditions of use. Owing to the extreme simplicity of the design any one possessing ordinary mechanical ability can convert an ordinary oiler, either of the vertical or horizontal kind, into a safety oiler. Cut the spout in the middle and solder upon each a piece of brass tubing having either an external or internal thread cut. Fit thereon a coupling sleeve made of insulating material as shown in the sectional view. The insulator can be



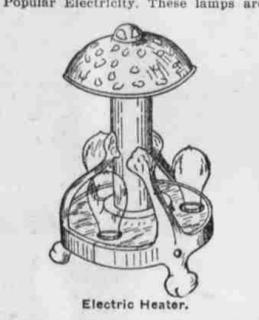
Oil Can With Insulated Tip.

made out of either hard rubber or vulcanized fiber turned in the lathe, with a milled center to admit of a firm grip when screwing or unscrewing the parts. Since oil is an insulator, no current can get past the coupling sleeve to the oiler's hand.

ELECTRIC HEATER IS HANDY

Heat Derived From Incandescent Lamp Is Reflected On in All Directions From Base.

An electric heater of ornamental design is shown in the accompanying cut and is the invention of Frank Kuhn, Detroit, Mich. The heat is derived from incandescent electric lamps mounted in the base as shown, says Popular Electricity. These lamps are



Electric Heater.

of a low efficiency as far as light is concerned, but they give off a great deal of heat. This heat is reflected out in all directions by the polished metal standard and from the base.

ELECTRIC ARC LIGHT AIDS

Through Its Application Art of Photomicrography Received Great Impulse—Intensity Uniform.

The art of photomicrography received a great impulse through the application of the electric arc light. Before then it was most difficult to secure good photographs of minute objects magnified more than one thousand diameters, because the oxyhydrogen light employed to illuminate the objects was not sufficiently uniform in intensity.

With the electric arc light this difficulty was largely overcome, so that fine photographs have been made of objects magnified five thousand diameters.

Micrometry is far ahead of astronomy in the magnifying powers that it can employ. It is seldom that a power of so much as one thousand diameters can be usefully applied with a telescope, and in photographing the heavenly bodies comparatively slight magnification can be used. A photograph of the moon with a magnifying power of 5,000 diameters would be a wonder indeed.

Steam, Electricity and Coal.

For a time, during the transition from steam to electricity on the Southport branch of the Lancashire & Yorkshire railway, it was necessary to run steam trains between the electrical trains, at the same speed. This afforded an opportunity to compare the coal consumption of the locomotives with that of the power-house supplying the electric trains. It was found that the six-wheeled, coupled-tank engines consumed 40 pounds of coal per train mile for express trains, and 100 pounds for accommodation trains. The consumption of coal at the power-station for the electrical trains is 49 pounds per train mile.

ELECTRICAL NOTES.

Modern electric hoists are so designed that the speed varies with the load.

A portable electrolytic bleaching apparatus has been devised for household use to remove stains from textiles.

A new sanitary mouthpiece for telephones is made flush with the transmitter case to avoid germ-catching corners.

A 20-watt tungsten lamp gives one-fourth more light than the carbon filament lamp of 16 candlepower, on one-half the current.

A coin-in-the-slot electric curling iron heater for the use of feminine patrons of the hotels and other public places has been patented.

MOUTHPIECE IS DIRT PROOF

Flush Device Arranged by New York Inventor Makes Transmitter More Sanitary Than Cup.

A flush mouthpiece for telephones has been designed by a New York inventor for the purpose of making the transmitter more sanitary. It consists of an aluminum cup attached to the diaphragm of the transmitter by means of the bolt and nut used in fastening the front electrode to the diaphragm, says Popular Mechanics. The cup extends through the transmitter case and its outer edge is turned



Dirt-Proof Telephone Mouthpiece.

over so as to come nearly flush with the face of the case. The cup fits close enough to the case to seal its interior from dust and dirt, but does not come in actual contact with it. There are no grooves for the lodgment of dust or dirt.

Tests of the new transmitter are claimed to prove that it gives just as good service over distances of from 1 to 500 miles as the cup type now in general use.

USING ELECTRICITY AT SEA

Important Part It Plays in Developing Great Speed Attained by Im-mense Ocean Liner.

A writer in the Electrical Review, of London, gives an interesting account of the important parts played by electricity in developing the great speed attained by the Mauretania. He says:

"Without in any way reflecting upon the abilities of the engineers, it must be admitted that they did not seem to have grasped the great possibilities of the various auxiliaries on the ship, and it is attention to these auxiliaries which determines the ultimate fulfillment of the designers' ideas.

"As is now well known, practically all the auxiliary machinery on the Mauretania is electrically driven, and it is equally well known, especially among electrical engineers connected with shipwork, that marine engineers have a stubborn and conservative objection to anything other than the steam-driven plant with which they have been brought up. When, therefore, an electrical installation of more than 2,000 horse power was thrust upon them with practically no qualified electricians on board to enlighten them as to its proper usage, they naturally felt some trepidation, and had little desire to attempt any record speeds.

"Perhaps it is not quite evident why the speed of the ship should entirely depend on the auxiliary plant, and in explanation it must be said that practically all fast boats require a relatively enormous quantity of steam at high pressure, which can only be obtained from the boilers when high-power forced-draft fans are employed to supply air to the furnaces, and a slight diminution in their output has an immediate effect on the steam pressure of the boilers, and consequently on the speed of the engines and propellers. In the case of the Mauretania the forced-draft fans are electrically driven."

Electricity by Wind.

It is said that all the difficulties in the way of the generation of electricity by means of wind power have been overcome by a German firm, which has just placed such sets on the market. The apparatus is entirely automatic and self adjusting, requiring no attention except upon the approach of a gale of unusual severity, when it is necessary to reduce the sail area of the wind wheel. The most important feature of the installation is a regulator which maintains a constant pressure on the lighting circuit, without regard to the activity of the dynamo or the condition of the storage battery.

Electricity by Wind.

The current that leaves the motor of the street car and seeks to make its way back to the power-house along the track often comes to a place in the rails where it is much easier traveling to jump off the rail to adjoining moist soil and then to a nearby water or gas pipe. All is well until this current leaves the pipe for some better path, when it takes with it his pipe of fire, finally producing a leak. This destruction of the pipe is called electrolysis—Popular Electricity.

Wireless Outfit for Police.

A part of the equipment of the new \$5,000,000 police headquarters in New York is to be a wireless telegraphy outfit operated from the dome. It is expected that branch stations will be established in outlying districts of the city and in other countries, so that if wires fail, communication may be maintained.

Immense Aqueduct.

The aqueduct which Los Angeles is building from the San Fernando valley, 240 miles distant, not only will be the greatest in the world, but will supply more persons with water and at the same time irrigate 75,000 acres of land and develop 60,000 electrical horsepower.

For the Hostess

Chat on Interesting Topics of Many Kinds, by a Recognized Authority

Novel Cotton Wedding.

This affair was celebrated way down in old Kentucky, and was such a delightful affair that I am sure our readers in all parts of the country will be able to adapt ideas from it to suit their own needs and conditions. The invitations said "Please come in a cotton frock." This conveyed the idea that it was to be an informal affair. The spacious porches and grounds were lighted with many lanterns, and dotted over the lawn were great white cotton umbrellas, such as are used for shade on wagons. They were on long stakes driven into the ground, and had a Japanese lantern lighted and suspended from each rib; rugs and chairs were underneath.

These trysting places were much sought in the intervals between dances. There was a large platform erected with negro players, just like the plantation dances before the war. Before the dancing the hostess produced bandana handkerchief-dances, to which the men sewed the strings; then a wee colored china doll was given each girl, with bits of chamois skin from which she was to make a pen wiper for her partner.

The refreshments were typically southern: Individual chicken pie, hot corn muffins, tiny stuffed peppers, iced tea and delicious watermelon.

A Neck-Wear Shower.

A fall bride says the prettiest shower she has ever had was given her by her own fair fingers the dainty creation for the bride who had grown up among them and was so soon to go far away across the sea. No one can have too many stocks and collars, and there was every variety imaginable, some being of Irish crochet. The table center piece was composed of the white gilly flower, often called "stocks," and the place cards were bogus certificates of "stock" drawn upon the Bank of Matrimony and signed by her majesty, the "American Woman," with "Cupid" named as treasurer. The gifts were all done up in dainty tissue paper tied with white satin ribbon and were brought in on a tray with bows of tulle on each handle. A wee maiden dressed as Cupid presented the tray to the bride.

An Unusual Party for Children.

A mother of a twelve-year-old daughter issued invitations for this very pretty party. Remembering how children loved to dress up, she said: "Please come in a costume representing a character from 'Alice in Wonderland.'" When all had arrived there was a pantomime showing the figures

Three Dainty Dresses



The dainty dress at the left is of white batiste trimmed at the bottom and around the yoke and sleeves with embroidery. The yoke and cuffs are of the batiste finely tucked. The ash is of ribbon finished in front with a sash end reaching to the bottom of the skirt and ornamented with little pink roses. The front of the blouse and the bottom of the skirt are trimmed in the same way, and a similar band forms the girle. The tucked guimps and the puffed undersleeves are of white batiste. The dress at the right is pink silk voile. The blouse is shirred at the shoulders and crossed in front; the front is tucked and trimmed at the top with lace. The collarette is of tulle, as are also the puffed undersleeves, the latter trimmed with narrow bands of liberty. The sleeves themselves are wide and cut in one piece with the body of the waist. The skirt is trimmed at the bottom with two overlapping ruffles of the material. The girle is of liberty, knotted at the left side.

Would You Defy Age?

Here are three excellent "Don'ts" which help to preserve your youthfulness.

Don't wash the face in hot water before going out for a walk. It opens the pores of the skin and makes them more sensitive to dust and dirt.

Don't use soap and water as soon as you return. Rub a good cold cream into the face and wipe it off with a soft handkerchief.

Don't wrinkle the forehead when worried or draw the brows together in a frown when bright light strikes the eyes. Nothing ages a woman so quickly as deep ridges on the forehead.

Fagoting on Black.

A black satin tunic gown seen recently was trimmed by two rows of fagoting, in light green and red, following in pattern the outline of the tunic. The work was finished off by a double row of French knots in alternate red and green.

The black net of the yoke was embroidered in the same way, and by a row of little rose pearl buttons.

New Collar and Frill.

A modish shirtwaist shows a frill of white tulle edged with dull blue and a strip of embroidery in buckle effect, with a darker blue for the frill edge for the buckled strap. The stock is edged again with the blue lawn, and the smart little bow tie is of the two shades, the darker showing in the under loops.

Patent leather belts with enameled or jeweled buckles are in the lead.